

## Message Text

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45

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-19 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-15 DRC-01 EB-11 STR-08 TRSE-00

OMB-01 CU-04 /146 W

----- 088139

R 280823Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7105

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 12588

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TW, CH, JA, US

SUBJ: EFFECTS OF US' PRC INITIATIVES ON JAPAN'S CHINA POLICH

RF: TAIPEI 5801

1. OUR UNDERSTANDING OF YOSHIDA'S POSITION AND RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN FONOFF LEADS US TO BELIEVE THAT HIS REMARKS (REFTEL) WERE NOT OFFICIALLY AUTHORIZED PROBE OF USG INTENTIONS TOWARD CHINA AND TAIWAN. HE HAS MADE SIMILAR REMARKS TO TAIPEI AND TOKYO EMBOFFS OVER PAS THREE YEARS. ON OTHER HAND, POINT OF VIEW HE EXPRESSED IS BY NO MEANS UNCOMMON AMONG THOUGHTFUL AND INFORMED JAPANESE OBSERVERS, AND WHILE OTHER FONOFF OFFICIALS HAVE NOT RECENTLY VOICED SUCH CONCERNS TO US, WE HAVE IMPRESSION OF RESIDUAL APPREHENSION WITHIN GOJ THAT USG COULD MADE SIGNIFICANT POLICY SHIFT ON CHINA WITHOUT PROVIDING GOJ WITH MUCH PRIOR NOTICE.

2. IT IS AXIOMATIC, AS YOSHIDA POINTS OUT, THAT PACE OF DEVELOPMENTS IN US-PRC RELATIONS AFFECTS JAPAN'S  
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POLICY TOWARD CHINA AND, INDEED, TOWARD ALL OF EAST

ASEA. THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE FOR ISSUES INVOLVING JAPAN'S SECURITY. THEREFORE, ANY SUDDEN BASIC CHANGE IN US RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN AND CHINA WOULD BE GRAVELY UNSETTLING TO GOJ AND COULD DESTROY DELICATE BALANCE WHICH GOJ IS ATTEMPTING TO MAINTAIN DOMESTICALLY BETWEEN PRO-TAIWAN HARDLINERS AND THOSE WHO WOULD PISH JAPAN INTO SWIFT AND INDISCRIMINATE RELATIONSHIP WITH PEKING. PRESERVATION OF DOMESTIC BALANCE IS ESSENTIAL

UNDERPINNING FOR SECOND BALANCE, I.E., FRIENDLY BUT CIRCUMSPECT APPROACH IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH PEKING.

3. HAVING NOTED IMPORTANCE OF OUR CHINA POLICY TO JAPAN'S VIEWS ON SECURITY, WE WOULD DRAW DISTINCTION WITH RESPECT TO MATTERS OF LESSER IMPORT -- CULTURAL EXCHANGE, TRADE, CIVIL AVIATION, ETC. IN THESE AREAS, JAPAN'S RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA IS TAKING ON DEGREE OF MOMENTUM AND INDEPENDENCE, WITH RESULT THAT IN THIS LIMITED SENSE, GOJ POLICY TOWARD PRC WILL IN FUTURE BE INCREASINGLY LESS AFFECTED BY USG POLICY THAN HERETOFORE.

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**Control Number:** n/a  
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